



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at FCI Ashland**

WASHINGTON, DC: On Wednesday, December 2, 2020, inmate Avery Poynter was having difficulty speaking at FCI Ashland, in Ashland, Kentucky. Responding staff administered aid and transferred the inmate from his cell to a Health Services Exam Room. While being treated by institution medical staff, Mr. Poynter became unresponsive, and staff initiated life-saving measures. Staff requested emergency medical services and life-saving efforts continued. Mr. Poynter, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by the Boyd County Deputy Coroner. Mr. Poynter tested positive for COVID-19 (post-mortem).

Mr. Poynter was a 52-year-old male who was sentenced in the Eastern District of Kentucky to a 360-month sentence for four counts of Travel in Interstate Commerce for the Purpose of Engaging in Illicit Sexual Conduct with a Minor. He had been in custody at FCI Ashland since May 10, 2017.

FCI Ashland is a low Security facility that currently houses 979 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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